



American History

www.americanhistory.abc-clio.com

Quick Tips

The *American History* database combines the most relevant primary and secondary sources, analysis of current events, and unprecedented learning support all in one seamlessly integrated resource. In a series of lessons that integrate politics, science, the arts, philosophy, and economics, the database explores the ongoing development of the United States—its precolonial origins, westward expansion, social movements, internal conflicts, and modern-day defining moments.

Overview of American History



On the home page, you'll find special features including "Living History" and "Spotlight On..." articles that provide you with detailed information on a particular topic in American history.

In the vertical toolbar on the left-hand side, you'll see links to the Topic Explorations and Advanced Search, along with tools including Ask the Cybrarian—a special feature that allows you to submit a question to an ABC-CLIO Schools editor—and research lists. If your teacher has created a list of resources for you to review, this is where you'll find them.

Using Site Search

You'll also find the following search options:

- Site Search is the best for quick searches on one or two keywords
- Use Advanced Search to narrow your search down to a specific time period or category
- Topic Explorations are great for research or review when you need help getting started



Located at the top left of every screen, Site Search offers a quick text search of all content areas of the database.

Searches look for all words entered.

- Use a comma to separate multiple search terms
Example: Washington, Lincoln
- Use "or" to find either word
Example: Washington or Lincoln
- Use "-" to exclude a word
Example: Washington, -George
- For an exact phrase, enclose in quotation marks
Example: "George Washington"

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Using Advanced Search



- Get instant access to thousands of reference resources by choosing one or a combination of criteria, then clicking on the Search button
- To narrow a search by time period, select a specific topic or subtopic from the list on the right
- To further narrow a search by type of resource, select a category (or categories) from the Reference list (in blue)
- Enter any relevant key words into the text box, following the same guidelines as when using a basic search
- The categories include biographies, audio clips, overview essays, and primary source documents

The red Additional Resource list offers an archive of topic explorations as well as the feature stories found on the home page

Search Results



- Whether you use a basic or advanced search, your results will be returned in a format similar to the screen on the left.
- All search results will be sorted into categories. Each category provides different resources for use in your research
- For example, in this search we are using the keyword Louisiana Purchase.
 - If you want to see the area that was purchased in the deal, you would select maps
 - If you are interested in an overview and description, you would choose events.
 - Additional resources, including topic explorations and feature articles can be found in the shaded boxes at the bottom of the page.

Using Topic Explorations



- The Topic Explorations are a great starting point for research or review
- First, choose the relevant time period by clicking on the right-hand tool bar
- Once a time period has been chosen, a second screen will pop up. Here, you will again narrow your search by time period, then choose a broad theme to research
- Once you've chosen a theme, you'll be taken to an overview page. You can use the toolbar above the overview to navigate to other features—including quizzes, biographies, discussion questions, and research lists—in the topic exploration